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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of the Reverend William L. Oaks of Petersburg, Illinois, who passed away on February 19, 2002; and

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WHEREAS, Reverend Oaks was born on March 6, 1927 in Canton to William Howard and Freda Kohler Oaks; he married Marilyn Blaser in 1950 in Moline; and

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WHEREAS, Reverend Oaks graduated from Canton High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, where he was an All-American football player who signed with the Chicago Bears; he was elected to both the Augustana College and Canton sports hall of fame; he earned a master of divinity degree from Northern Baptist Seminary and was ordained in 1959; and

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WHEREAS, Reverend Oaks was a United States Navy veteran of World War II and the pastor emeritus at Elliott Avenue Baptist Church, where he served for 25 years; he was also a pastor at churches in Dixon and Elgin; and

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WHEREAS, Reverend Oaks was a past president of the American Baptist Church of the Great Rivers Region and served on the American Baptist Board of Managers in several capacities; in addition, he was instrumental in founding the Horizon House and established the Fund of Renewal Project; and

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WHEREAS, The passing of the Reverend William L. Oaks will be deeply felt by all who knew and loved him, especially his wife, Marilyn; his daughter, Sarah Oaks; his sons, John (Janis) Oaks, Mark (Lori) Oaks, and the Reverend Fred (Judy) Oaks; his 8 grandchildren; his great-granddaughter; his brother, Darren Oaks; his sisters, Pauline Casey and Donna

1 Westerfield; and his several nieces and nephews; therefore,  
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
5 all who knew him, the death of the Reverend William L. Oaks  
6 of Petersburg, Illinois; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of the Reverend William L. Oaks with  
9 our sincere condolences.